

Appln No. 10/000,141

Amdt date April 7, 2004

Reply to Office action of January 7, 2004

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This amendment is in response to the Office action mailed on January 7, 2004. Claims 43-57 have been newly added. Claim 7 has been cancelled. Claims 1-3, 5, 8, 10, 15, and 42 have been amended. Claims 1-6, 8, 10, 15-16 and 42-57 are pending in the application. Applicants thank the Examiner for attending to the application.

Independent claim 42 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,960,014 issued to Li et al. FIG. 1 of Li illustrates a laser having a heater in the form of a thin film resistor 12. The thin film resistor 12 has a narrow resistor portion 14 and wide contact portions 16 at each end of the resistive portion 14. See also Li, col. 3, lines 13-45. Thus, it appears that Li describes a heater having two contacts 16 that provide heating of the laser.

Independent claim 42, as amended recites:

an array of lasers on a substrate; means for providing a drive signal to lasers making up the array of lasers; means for providing a heating signal to lasers making up the array of lasers via a single heater contact coupling each laser in the array of lasers, the heating signal and the drive signal in conjunction resulting in heating of a selected laser in the array of lasers.

Li, at most, describes a heating element having two contacts to provide heating for a single laser. Thus, Li does not disclose "means for providing a heating signal to lasers

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making up the array of lasers via a single heater contact coupling each laser in the array of lasers" as recited in amended claim 42. Accordingly, amended claim 42 appears to be allowable over Li. Newly added dependent claims 50-51, depending on claim 42, also therefore are allowable over Li. Furthermore, newly added dependent claims 50-51 cover different aspects of the invention that are also not described or suggested by Li.

In the Office action, claims 1-8, 10, 15, and 16 were allowed. See action, pg. 2. Claims 1-3, 5, 8, 10, and 15 have been amended to further clarify the aspects of the invention that were already covered by the allowed claims. Thus, Applicants respectfully request that the allowance of these claims be maintained.

New claims 43-46 and 52-55 describe other aspects of the invention and depend on independent claim 1. The cited reference does not describe or suggest such an apparatus with the recited features in these claims. Moreover, since claim 1 is allowable, claims 43-46 and 52-55, depending on claim 1, are also therefore allowable.

New claims 47-49, 56, and 57 describe other aspects of the invention and depend on independent claim 15. The cited reference does not describe or suggest such a method as recited in these claims. Moreover, since claim 15 is allowable, claims 47-49, 56, and 57, depending on claim 15, are also therefore allowable.

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In response to the election/restriction requirement of October 7, 2003, Applicants elected a thermally turned laser array as, for example, the embodiments relating to the laser array shown in FIGs. 2 and 3. Accordingly claims 1-8, 10, 15-16 and 42 were elected. Claims 1-3, 5, 8, 10, 15, and 42 have been further amended to further reflect the election and not narrowed. Claims 43-57, which are written in dependent form of elected independent claims 1, 15, and 42, have been added after the election. These newly added claims, as well as the amended claims, are readable upon the elected species. See MPEP 809.02(a).

In view of the foregoing remarks, it is respectfully submitted that this application is now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration of the application and allowance of claims 1-6, 8,10, 15-16 and 42-57 are respectfully requested.

Applicant also notes that prior to the mailing of the Office action on January 7, 2004, Applicant filed a Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) along with PTO Form SB/08A/B and the associated cited references on December 5, 2003. Enclosed is a copy of the acknowledged receipt postcard indicating that the IDS, the PTO Form and the associated references were received by the Patent Office on December 8, 2003. Also enclosed are copies of the IDS dated December 5, 2003, and associated PTO Form.

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Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner confirm consideration of the IDS of December 5, 2003 with the associated PTO Form and references, and return an initialed copy of the PTO Form to Applicant's representative.

Respectfully submitted,

CHRISTIE, PARKER & HALE, LLP

By 

Daniel M. Cavanagh

Reg. No. 41,661

626/795-9900

DMC/kmg

Enclosures: Copy of Acknowledged Receipt Postcard  
Copy of Supplemental Information Disclosure  
Statement dated December 5, 2003 and associated  
PTO/SB/08A/B Form

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